

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/742,657	NISHIKAWA, HIDENORI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Tony Mahmoudi	2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 20-April-2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-4, 6-11, 13-16, re-numbered as claims 1-13.
3.  The drawings filed on 21 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20050511.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**CHARLES RONES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Remarks***

1. In response to the amendment filed on 20-April-2005, claims 1, 13 and 16 are amended per applicant's request. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11 and 13-16 are presently pending in the application, of which, claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 are presented in independent form.
  
2. In view of the examiner's amendment, authorized by the Attorney of Record, claims 6 is further amended by the examiner (details provided below.)

### ***Examiner's Amendment***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Hoffman (Attorney of Record) on 11-May-2005 (see enclosed Interview Summary, paper No. 20050511.)

Claims 6 and 16 are amended as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) A database system for storing and managing data for use by a plurality of application programs that perform distinct operations, comprising:

a hierarchical node database ~~for storing that stores~~ node data to be used by a first and a second application program;

a first hierarchical link table ~~for defining that defines~~ a first unique hierarchical structure of the node data for use when the first application program is run, wherein the first hierarchical link table includes an identifier that identifies the first application program; and

a second hierarchical link table ~~for defining that defines~~ a second unique hierarchical structure of the node data for use when the second application program is run, wherein the second hierarchical link table includes an identifier that identifies the second application program.

16. (Currently Amended) A database system, for storing and managing data that is used by a plurality of application programs to execute distinct operations, comprising:

a hierarchical node database, wherein data used for the application program is stored as node data in data records, and wherein the hierarchical node database includes effective period data for at least one data record that defines a time period when at least one data record is effective for each of said plurality of application programs, ~~wherein said hierarchical node database does not define relationships among the node data~~; and

a hierarchical link table, provided for each of said application programs, which comprise relationship data that defines a hierarchical structure of the node data that is stored in the

hierarchical node database, and wherein the hierarchical link table includes an identifier of an application program associated with the defined hierarchical structure.

*Allowance*

4. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11 and 13-16 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's amendment filed on 20-April-2005, and the examiner's amendment, authorized by the attorney of record on 11-May-2005, overcome the cited prior art with respect to the independent claims.

The prior art of record, Sugauchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,842), Mital et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,012), Campbell et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,801), Suver (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,497), Fehskens et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,591), and Lynch-Aird (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,402), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

wherein the hierarchical link table includes an identifier of an application program associated with the defined hierarchical structure, as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 16.

Claims 3-4 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 1.

Claims 14-15 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 13.

The prior art of record, Sugauchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,842), Mital et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,012), Campbell et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,801), Suver (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,497), Fehskens et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,591), and Lynch-Aird (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,402), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a first hierarchical link table that defines a first unique hierarchical structure of the node data for use when the first application program is run, wherein the first hierarchical link table includes an identifier that identifies the first application program; and

a second hierarchical link table that defines a second unique hierarchical structure of the node data for use when the second application program is run, wherein the second hierarchical link table includes an identifier that identifies the second application program, as claimed in claim 6.

Claims 7-11 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 6.

*Conclusion*

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmudi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (571) 272-4083.

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May 12, 2005



CHARLES RONES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER